FOR MATURE READERS

VILLA OF THE MYSTERIES

Number 3

BY MACK WHITE

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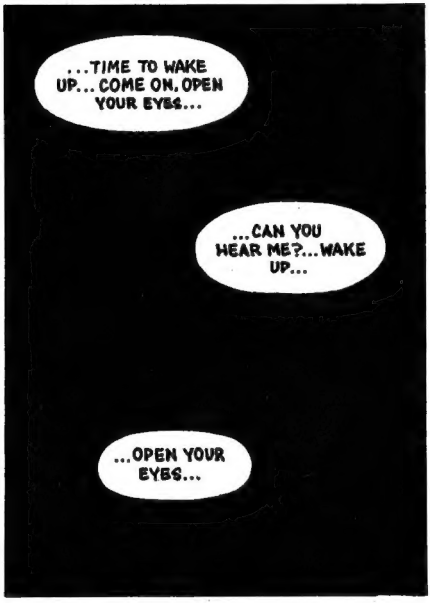
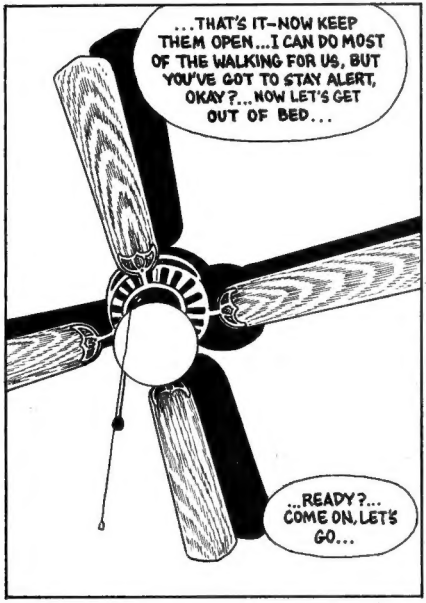

...TIME TO WAKE UP... COME ON, OPEN YOUR EYES...
...CAN YOU HEAR ME?... WAKE UP...
...OPEN YOUR EYES...


...THAT'S IT-NOW KEEP THEM OPEN...I CAN DO MOST OF THE WALKING FOR US, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO STAY ALERT, OKAY?...NOW LET'S GET OUT OF BED...
...READY?... COME ON, LET'S GO...

...GOOD-NO, YOU CAN'T GO BACK TO BED...TURN AROUND... WE'VE GOT TO GO TO THE BATHROOM NOW...WE CAN SLEEP SOME MORE LATER...
...I FEEL STRANGE...
...OF COURSE YOU DO-BUT IT'LL GET EASIER, TRUST ME...NOW TURN AROUND-LET'S GO...

...I DON'T KNOW WHO I AM...
...YOU'RE DISORIENTED... THE SYMBIOSIS IS NOT YET COMPLETE...YOU'LL FEEL BETTER LATER...
...I'M SCARED...
...DON'T BE...

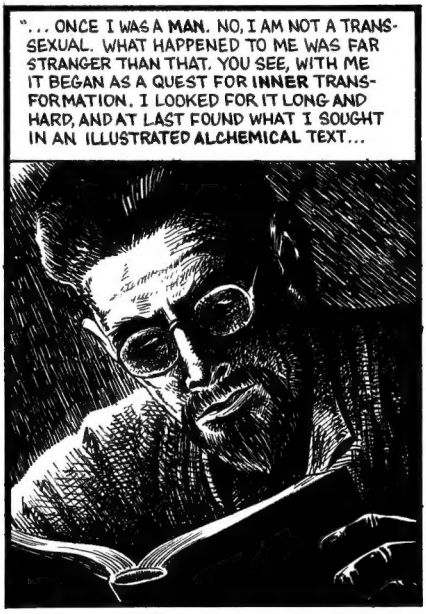
RIDE THE SNAKE
CHAPTER 2
...WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US IS BEAUTIFUL, NOT SCARY...YOU'LL SEE...WE'LL LOOK BETTER WHEN THE SYMBIOSIS IS COMPLETE AND OUR NEW PERSONA HAS EVOLVED...
...OH MY GOD...
LOTION

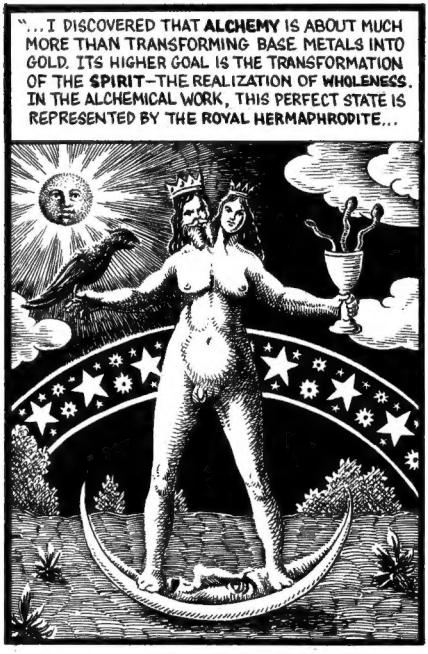
...AND WE'LL FEEL BETTER TOO... WE'LL KNOW A PEACE AND A WISDOM YOU NEVER DREAMED POSSIBLE... YOU'LL SEE...
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?!

...I HAVE LIBERATED YOU FROM THE WORLD OF DUALITY...YOU ARE NOW WHOLE, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE BEFORE YOU WERE BORN...

...I'M GOING TO GIVE US SOMETHING TO CALM YOU DOWN...
...THERE...ISN'T THAT BETTER... IT'S A FAST ACTING DRUG...NOTHING LIKE A GOOD PSYCHEDELIC TO PUT THINGS IN A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE, DON'T YOU AGREE...

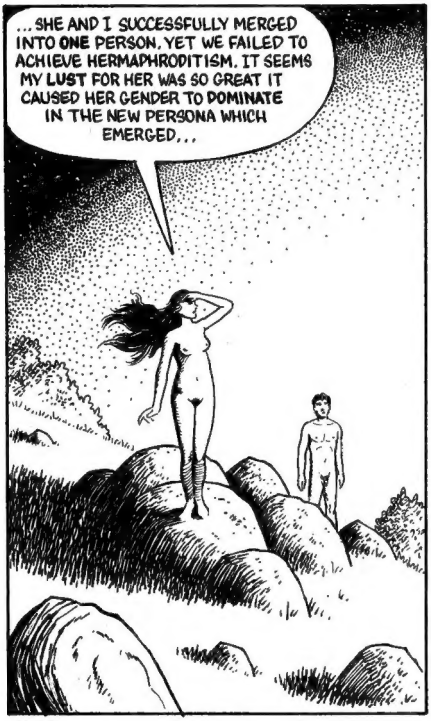
...THE TIME HAS COME TO REVEAL MY PAST TO YOU...


"... ONCE I WAS A MAN. NO, I AM NOT A TRANSSEXUAL. WHAT HAPPENED TO ME WAS FAR STRANGER THAN THAT. YOU SEE, WITH ME IT BEGAN AS A QUEST FOR INNER TRANSFORMATION. I LOOKED FOR IT LONG AND HARD, AND AT LAST FOUND WHAT I SOUGHT IN AN ILLUSTRATED ALCHEMICAL TEXT...


"...I DISCOVERED THAT ALCHEMY IS ABOUT MUCH MORE THAN TRANSFORMING BASE METALS INTO GOLD. ITS HIGHER GOAL IS THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE SPIRIT—THE REALIZATION OF WHOLENESS. IN THE ALCHEMICAL WORK, THIS PERFECT STATE IS REPRESENTED BY THE ROYAL HERMAPHRODITE...

...THE HERMAPHRODITE IS PRIMAL FORM. IT IS THE ORIGINAL UNITY WE ALL SEEK TO REGAIN. IT IS THE TRUE DIVINITY...

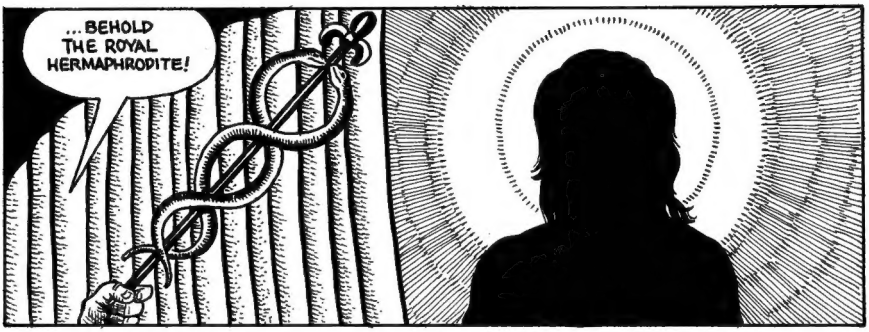
"...I BEGAN TO REALIZE THAT THIS PERFECT STATE OF HERMAPHRODITIC **HARMONY** COULD BE LITERALLY ACHIEVED THROUGH THE APPLICATION OF MODERN **TELEPORTER** TECHNOLOGY. I POURED MY QUITE CONSIDERABLE INHERITANCE INTO THE REALIZATION OF THIS DREAM, AND WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF MY FAITHFUL SERVANT **OTTO** EVENTUALLY DEVELOPED A MEANS OF MERGING TWO BEINGS INTO **ONE**. THEN I WENT IN SEARCH AMONG THE CITY'S PROSTITUTES FOR THE **WOMAN** I FOUND MOST APPEALING, AND LURED HER INTO MY MACHINE WITH PROMISES OF A FORTUNE SHE COULD NOT CONCEIVE...

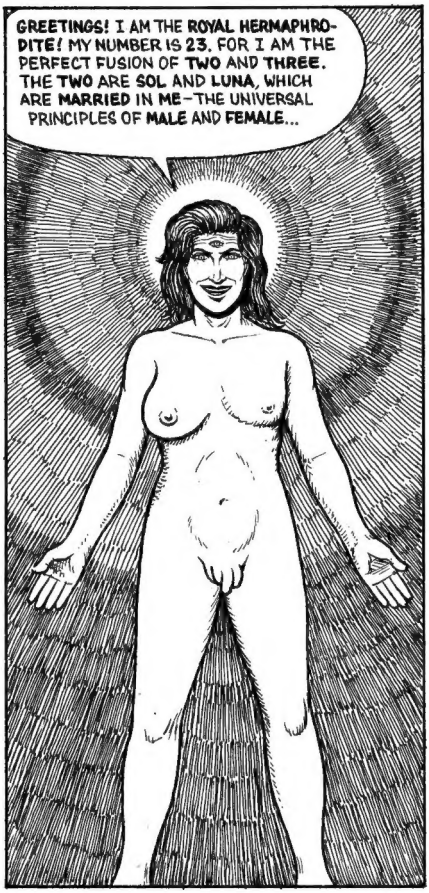


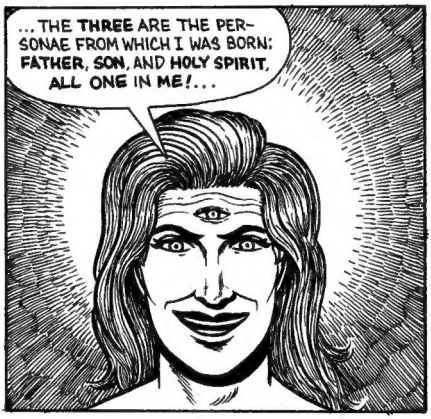
"...THE PART OF ME WHICH WAS **HER** NO LONGER RESENTS THE CHANGE. IN FACT, I AM GRATEFUL TO HAVE BEEN ELEVATED TO **HIS** MENTAL LEVEL, AND UNDERSTAND THE NECESSITY OF HIS QUEST FOR HERMAPHRODITISM. IT IS **MY** QUEST TOO, AND IN PURSUIT OF IT I BOUGHT A SMALL AMUSEMENT PARK AND ADAPTED MY INVENTION AS A PSYCHOTROPIC RIDE. WITH THIS AS COVER FOR MY ACTIVITIES, I WANDERED THE MIDWAY EVERY NIGHT, LOOKING FOR A DRIFTER LIKE **YOU** TO LURE INTO MY MACHINE...

...I REASONED, YOU SEE, THAT MY PROBLEM COULD BE CORRECTED BY MERGING WITH A MAN...THAT WOULD BALANCE OUT THE EXCESSIVE YIN WITH YANG...
YES... I UNDERSTAND NOW...

...LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO SEE IS NOT A HOLOGRAM. IT IS NOT AN ANIMATRON. IT IS NOT AN ANDROID, NOR TRICKERY OF ANY KIND. IT IS ONE HUNDRED PERCENT REAL...







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PRIAPVS

IN "LUNCH HOUR SHENANIGANS"

BY MACK WHITE

I WANT THIS REPORT REVISED AND ON MY DESK BY ONE O'CLOCK! AND I'LL NEED TWENTY COPIES!

ONE O'CLOCK?! BUT I WON'T HAVE TIME FOR LUNCH-

THEN I GUESS YOU'LL HAVE TO SKIP LUNCH, WON'T YOU?...

YES, MS. McNEIL.

BITCH.

BITCH.

THAT'LL TEACH HER TO SPEND SO MUCH TIME IN THE RESTROOM! IF SHE DOESN'T MAKE UP THE TIME ONE WAY, I'LL SEE THAT SHE MAKES IT UP ANOTHER!
GREETINGS, MADAME.

SLAM!
DID A NAKED MIDGET JUST PASS IN FRONT OF ME?!

HE HAD THE LONGEST DONG I'VE EVER-
WHERE'D HE GO?

I'M GOING TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!

THERE HE IS-RUNNING INTO THE WOMENS' REST-ROOM! THE LITTLE PERVERT!

WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
I AM PRIAPUS, GOD OF LUST AND FERTILITY!

RIDE UPON MY MAGIC PHALLUS AND YOU SHALL KNOW ECSTASY BEYOND YOUR WILDEST DREAMS!

MY GOD, IT IS A BEAUT! I DON'T THINK I CAN RESIST IT!

COME ON! WE'VE JUST GOT TIME FOR A QUICK ONE BEFORE EVERYONE COMES BACK FROM LUNCH!
I CAN'T STOP MYSELF!

DING!
I'M GONNA GRAB A SANDWICH TO GO, AND IF MS. McNEIL HAS A PROBLEM WITH THAT–

–SHE CAN JUST GET FUCKED!
OH, THIS IS MADNESS! SOMEONE COULD SEE US– BUT IT FEELS SO GOOD I DON'T CARE!

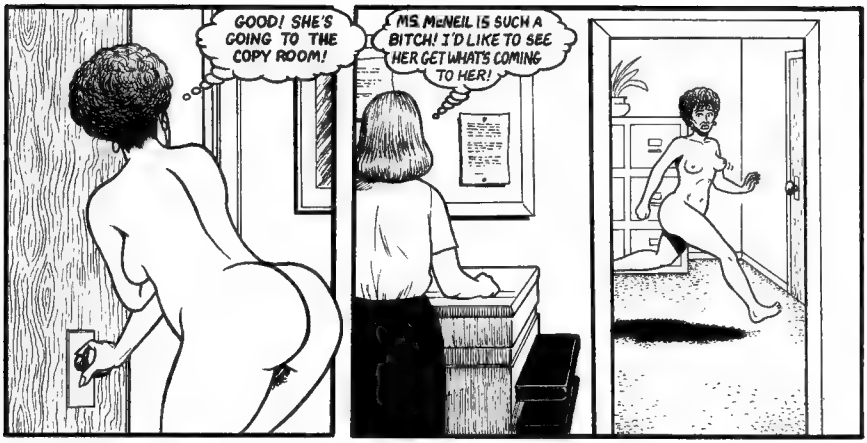
MMMMMM...THAT WAS SO GOOD...LET'S DO IT AGAIN... WHAT DO YOU SAY?...PRIAPUS? ...PRIAPUS HONEY?...

HE'S GONE!

I'M IN MR. HOFF'S OFFICE – OH MY GOD! IT'S ALMOST ONE!
12:52

THEY'LL ALL BE BACK FROM LUNCH ANY MINUTE!

I LEFT MY CLOTHES IN THE RESTROOM! SOMEHOW I'VE GOT TO GET BACK THERE WITHOUT BEING SEEN!
THERE! FINISHED! NOW TO MAKE THOSE TWENTY COPIES BEFORE SHE GETS BACK FROM LUNCH!


GOOD! SHE'S GOING TO THE COPY ROOM!
MS. McNEIL IS SUCH A BITCH! I'D LIKE TO SEE HER GET WHAT'S COMING TO HER!

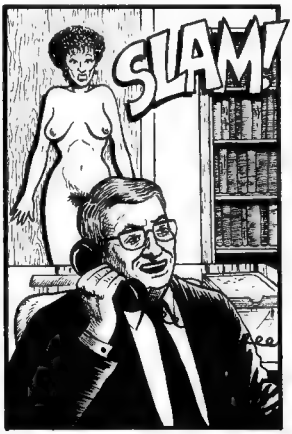
OH LORD! I'M ALMOST THERE!

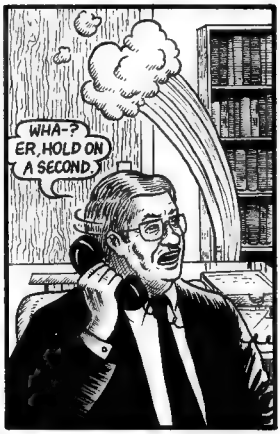
SHIT! SOMEONE'S COMING!

THANK GOD! THEY DIDN'T SEE ME!.... THIS IS LIKE A BAD DREAM!
ELEVATOR
2

DING!

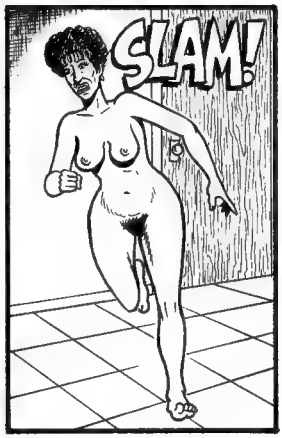
OH NO!


SLAM!

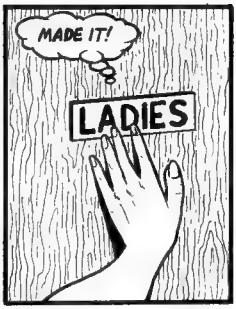

WHA-? ER, HOLD ON A SECOND.

?
GULP

SORRY FOR THE INTER-RUPTION. SOMEONE SLAMMED MY DOOR. MUST'VE HAD THE WRONG OFFICE...


SLAM!

DING!


MADE IT!
LADIES

MADAME, I HAVE RETRIEVED YOUR CLOTHES–BUT BEFORE YOU GET DRESSED, WHAT SAY WE–MADAME?... MADAME?...

THEY'RE NOT THERE! MY CLOTHES ARE GONE! I'VE GOT TO FIND THEM–QUICK!!!
LADIES

MS. McNEIL?

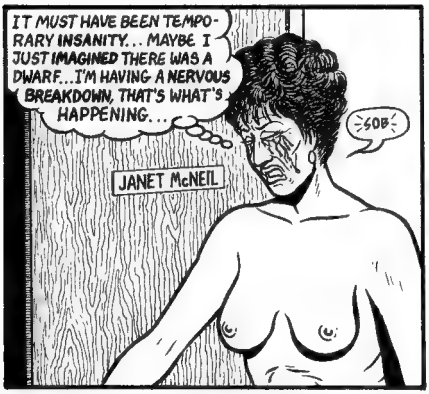
AH... HEH-HEH... I WAS JUST, AH, LOOKING FOR MY CLOTHES!

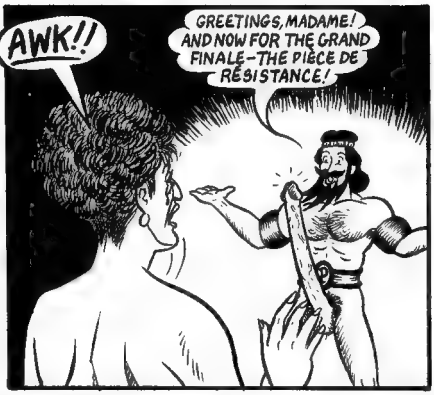
OH GOD, THIS IS SO AWFUL!

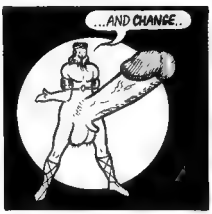
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO EMBARRASSED IN MY LIFE!
SNIFF!

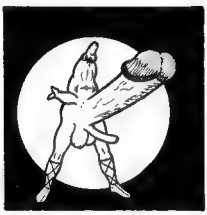
I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO LIVE THIS DOWN!

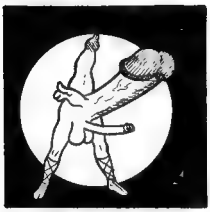
I'LL HAVE TO KILL MYSELF...
...OH, I MUST HAVE BEEN OUT OF MY MIND TO FUCK THAT DWARF!
MS. McNEIL?
SNIFF!

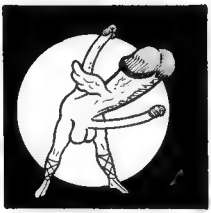












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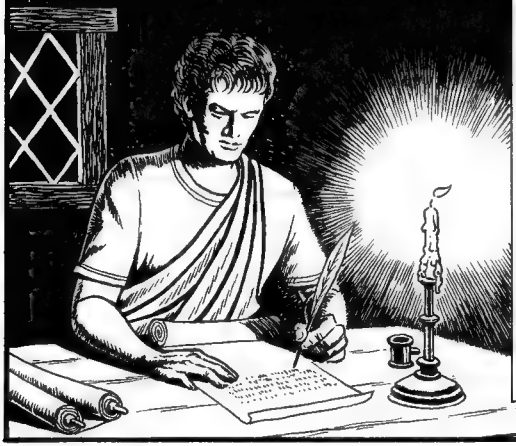
A **TRUE** STORY...

ALEXANDER, THE FALSE PROPHET

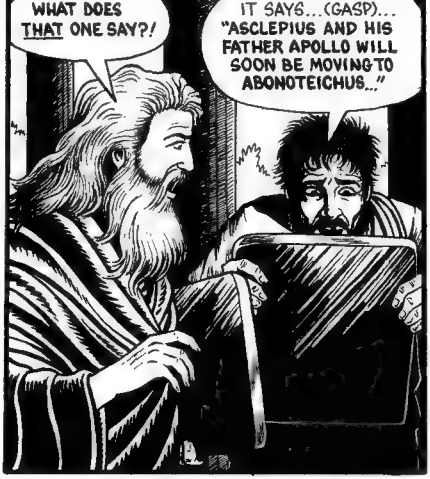
ADAPTED FROM **LUCIAN** BY **MACK WHITE**



MY DEAR **CELSUS**, YOU MAY THINK IT A SMALL MATTER TO ASK ME TO WRITE THE HISTORY OF **ALEXANDER**, THE **FALSE PROPHET** OF **ABONOTEICHUS**, BUT IT IS NO LESS A TASK THAN WRITING THE LIFE OF **ALEXANDER THE GREAT**. FOR THE ONE WAS AS GREAT A HERO AS THE OTHER WAS A **VILLAIN**. HOWEVER, I WILL UNDERTAKE THIS **HERCULEAN** TASK AND CLEAN OUT THIS **AUGEAN STABLE** TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY. I WILL HAUL OUT A FEW BASKETSFUL OF **DUNG**, JUST ENOUGH SO YOU MAY JUDGE HOW **ENORMOUS** WAS THE TOTAL ACCUMULATION THAT THREE THOUSAND HEAD OF **CATTLE** WERE ABLE TO PILE UP IN ALL THOSE **YEARS**...

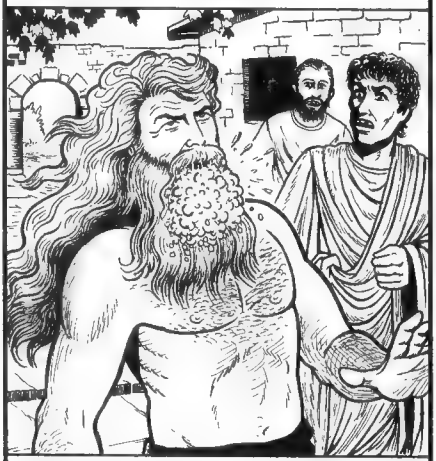
IN APPEARANCE, **ALEXANDER** WAS TALL, GOOD LOOKING, AND HAD A **GOD-LIKE** QUALITY ABOUT HIM. **MENTALLY**, NO ONE WAS HIS SUPERIOR. BUT HE USED HIS GIFTS FOR THE **WORST** POSSIBLE ENDS. AS A YOUTH, HE HAD BEEN APPRENTICE TO A **MAGICIAN**, ONE OF THOSE **QUACKS** WHO OFFER MIRACULOUS INCANTATIONS, LOVE CHARMS, AND THE LIKE. HE BECAME A **MASTER SWINDLER**, AND AT HIS MATURITY EMBARKED ON A SCHEME THAT WOULD MAKE HIM A MAN OF GREAT **WEALTH** AND **INFLUENCE**...

THE FIRST STEP IN THIS **SCHEME** WAS TO PLANT A PAIR OF **INSCRIBED** BRONZE TABLETS IN THE **SANCTUARY OF APOLLO** IN **CHALCEDON**, WHERE THEY WERE SOON OPPORTUNELY **DISCOVERED**...



WORD OF THE **GOD'S** IMMINENT ARRIVAL QUICKLY SPREAD TO **ABONOTEICHUS**, WHERE THE CITIZENS IMMEDIATELY VOTED TO ERECT A **TEMPLE** . . .

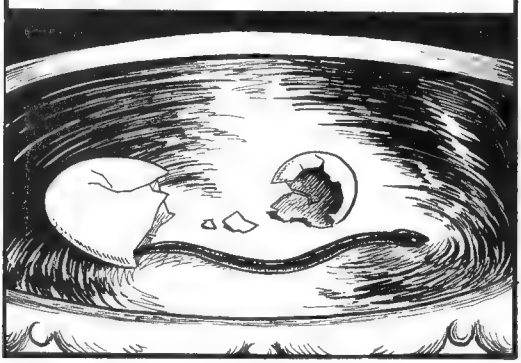
SHORTLY THEREAFTER, **ALEXANDER** SHOWED UP IN ABONOTEICHUS. HE MADE HIMSELF A **CELEBRITY** AND AN OBJECT OF AWE AND RESPECT BY FEIGNING FITS OF **MADNESS** AND FOAMING AT THE MOUTH . . .



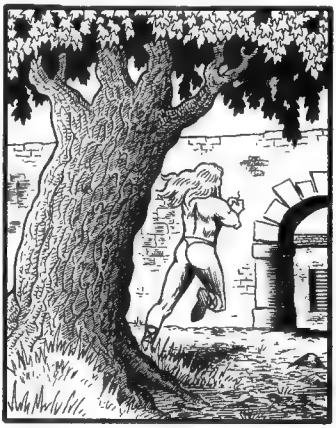
ONLOOKERS THOUGHT THIS **FOAM** SOME FEARSOME THING FROM **HEAVEN**, BUT FOR ALEXANDER IT WAS A SIMPLE TRICK. HE MERELY CHEWED THE **ROOT** OF **SOAPWORT**, THE PLANT **DYERS** USE . . .

ONE DAY HE ATTRACTED A CROWD AT THE **EXCAVATION SITE** FOR THE NEW **TEMPLE**. WEARING ONLY A **G-STRING** OF GOLD BROCADE, HE DIPPED A BOWL INTO A PUDDLE OF WATER, AND PULLED OUT A **GOOSE EGG** WHICH HE HAD **SECRETLY** BURIED THERE THE DAY BEFORE . . .

THE **EGG** HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY OPENED AND A **NEWBORN SNAKE** PLACED INSIDE. THEN THE OPENING HAD BEEN SEALED WITH WHITE **WAX**. ALEXANDER NOW CRACKED OPEN THE EGG, REVEALING THE SNAKE TO THE EXCITED ONLOOKERS WHO RAISED A SHOUT, WELCOMING THE **GOD** AND CONGRATULATING THEIR **CITY** . . .



THEN, CARRYING THE **GOD** WITH HIM, ALEXANDER **RAN** HOME, WHERE HE KEPT INDOORS FOR A FEW DAYS . . .

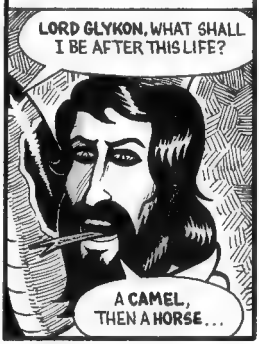


NEWS OF THE **MIRACULOUS BIRTH** QUICKLY SPREAD, AND SOON PEOPLE BEGAN POURING INTO THE CITY TO SEE **ALEXANDER** AND THE GOD, WHICH WAS NAMED **GLYKON**. WHEN THE CITY WAS FILLED TO OVERFLOWING, ALEXANDER DRESSED HIMSELF LIKE A GOD, SEATED HIMSELF IN A SMALL ROOM, AND WRAPPED AROUND HIMSELF A **SNAKE** OF PRODIGIOUS LENGTH WHICH HE HAD ACQUIRED IN **PELLA**. THE HEAD OF THE SNAKE HE HID UNDER HIS ARM, IN ITS PLACE DISPLAYING A HUMAN-HEADED **MASK**, THE MOUTH AND TONGUE OF WHICH COULD BE MOVED BY HORSEHAIR STRINGS...

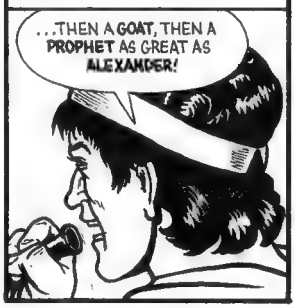
PICTURE THE SCENE—A DIM CELL CROWDED WITH A MOTLEY, EXCITED **MOB**, ALREADY IN **AWE** AND FULL OF **HOPE**. NATURALLY, THEY BELIEVED IT WAS A **MIRACLE**. THE SNAKE, A TINY **INFANT** ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO, HAD IN SO SHORT A TIME GROWN TO THIS **INCREDIBLE SIZE**—AND WITH THE HEAD OF A **MAN**...

SOON ALEXANDER BEGAN GIVING OUT **ORACLES** AND MAKING **PROPHECIES** FOR A FEE. HE BECAME VERY WEALTHY AND MOVED INTO THE NEW TEMPLE WHEN IT WAS FINISHED...

RICH PATRONS WERE ALLOWED **PRIVATE** MEETINGS WITH THE GOD, AT WHICH HE ACTUALLY **SPOKE**...



THIS WAS DONE BY JOINING TOGETHER SOME **CRANES'** WINDPIPES AND FITTING ONE END INTO THE LINEN **MASK**. A CONFEDERATE WOULD THEN BELLOW THE GOD'S ANSWERS INTO THE **TUBE**...



MOST PERSONS SUBMITTED THEIR QUESTIONS TO THE GOD ON **SCROLLS** WHICH WERE TIED AND **SEALED** WITH WAX. ALEXANDER WOULD TAKE THEM INTO HIS INNER SANCTUM, THEN HAVE THE CLIENTS ENTER IN ORDER AND HAND BACK EACH SCROLL WITH THE SEAL **INTACT** AND THE GOD'S ANSWER **WRITTEN** BELOW THE QUESTION . . .

NATURALLY THE **FOOLS** WERE AMAZED BY THIS, BUT THERE WAS REALLY **NO MAGIC** TO IT. ALEXANDER HAD MANY TECHNIQUES FOR **OPENING** THE SEALS, SUCH AS **CUTTING** THE WAX UNDERNEATH WITH A **HOT** NEEDLE, THEN WITH THE SAME NEEDLE WARMING THE WAX AND STICKING THEM BACK TOGETHER . . .

MOST OF THE **ORACLES** WERE AMBIGUOUS OR OBSCURE, BUT SOME WERE SPECIFIC—SOMETIMES WITH **DISASTROUS** RESULTS. ONE TIME, FOR INSTANCE, WHEN THE WAR WITH **GERMANY** WAS AT ITS HEIGHT, ALEXANDER SENT AN ORACLE TO THE **EMPEROR**. IT STATED THAT, TO INSURE **VICTORY**, TWO LIVE **LIONS** SHOULD BE THROWN INTO THE **DANUBE** ALONG WITH EXPENSIVE SPICES AND OTHER SACRIFICES. THE **ROMANS** CARRIED OUT HIS INSTRUCTIONS . . .

THE LIONS SWAM ASHORE WHERE THEY WERE **CLUBBED** TO DEATH BY THE ENEMY. THEN THERE CAME IN AN INSTANT THE **DESTRUCTION** OF **20,000 ROMANS**. IN HIS DEFENSE, ALEXANDER EXPLAINED THAT THE GOD HAD SIMPLY PROPHESIED A VICTORY, WITHOUT SPECIFYING **WHOSE** IT WAS TO BE . . .

ALEXANDER TAUGHT THAT **PEDERASTY** WAS A SIN, YET HE KEPT A **HAREM** OF **CHOIR BOYS**. HE WAS ALSO CONSTANTLY SEDUCING **WOMEN**. HE DEVISED HIS OWN MYSTERY CEREMONY, IN WHICH HE AND THE **WIFE** OF A **ROMAN ARISTOCRAT**, ACTING THE PARTS OF **ENDYMION** AND **SELENE**, MADE LOVE RIGHT BEFORE THE POOR HUSBAND'S EYES . . .

ALL HUSBANDS, IT SEEMS, CONSIDERED IT **GOOD LUCK** IF ALEXANDER NOTICED THEIR **WIVES** OR **KISSED** THEM, AND MANY WIVES BOASTED OF HAVING HAD **CHILDREN** BY HIM . . .

ALEXANDER ONCE PROPHESIED THAT HE WOULD LIVE FOR **150** YEARS AND THEN BE KILLED BY A **THUNDERBOLT**. HOWEVER, HE DIED BEFORE HE REACHED SEVENTY, AND IT WAS A **MISERABLE** DEATH. HIS LEG WAS ALIVE WITH **MAGGOTS** AND HAD ROTTED ALL THE WAY TO HIS GROIN. HE WAS IN SUCH PAIN THAT HE LET THE DOCTORS PUT COLD COMPRESSES TO HIS HEAD . . .

TO DO THIS, THEY HAD TO REMOVE HIS **WIG**, REVEALING FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT EVEN HIS FAMOUS MANE OF **WHITE HAIR**, LIKE SO MUCH ELSE ABOUT HIM, WAS **ENTIRELY FAKE** . . .

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A 14-Chapter Serial

Rio Bardo

BY

Mack White

Chapter One

"¿Quién Es?"

Fort Sumner, New Mexico. 1881...

...I'M GOIN' OVER TO **PETE'S** TO GET A HUNK OF **BEEFSTEAK**...

BE CAREFUL, **BILLY.** I HEARD MEN IN THE ORCHARD EARLIER— MIGHT BE **GARRETT** AND HIS MEN.

OKAY, I'LL TAKE MY **GUN.**

Later, at Pete Maxwell's house, **Billy the Kid** sees two strangers. He calls out to them...

...¿QUIÉN ES?... **¿QUIÉN ES?**...

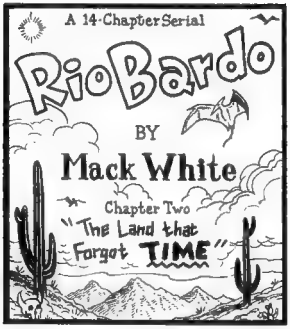
Receiving **no** reply, he opens Pete's door...

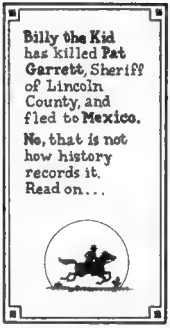
PETE, WHO ARE THOSE MEN OUTSIDE?

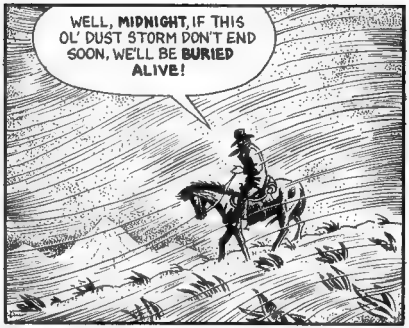
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

...I'M SORRY, **PAULITA.** I **HAVE** TO GO. I **KILLED PAT GARRETT!** HE WAS HIDIN' IN PETE'S HOUSE, LIKE THE **YELLER' DOG** HE WAS, AND **SHOT** AT ME. HE MISSED, SO I SHOT **HIM.** BUT HIS DEPUTIES SEEN ME DO IT—BEFORE THEY RUN OFF. SO NOW I'M **REALLY** IN **TROUBLE!**...

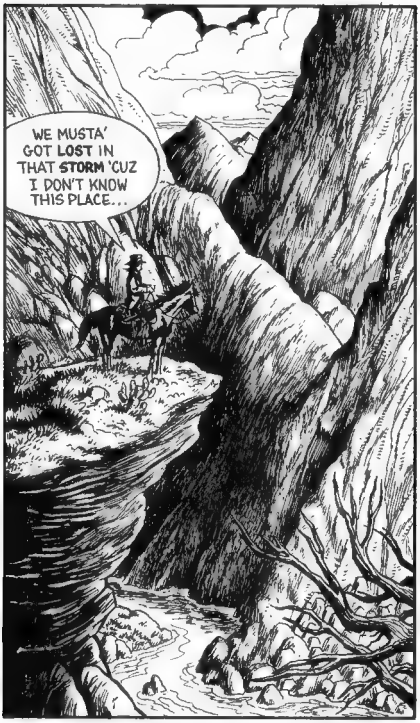
NEXT: "The Land that Forgot TIME!"

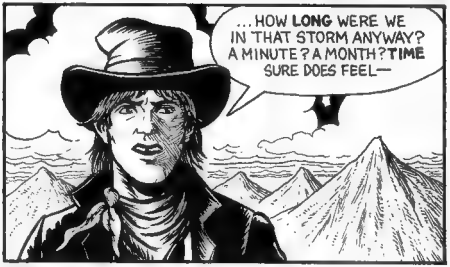


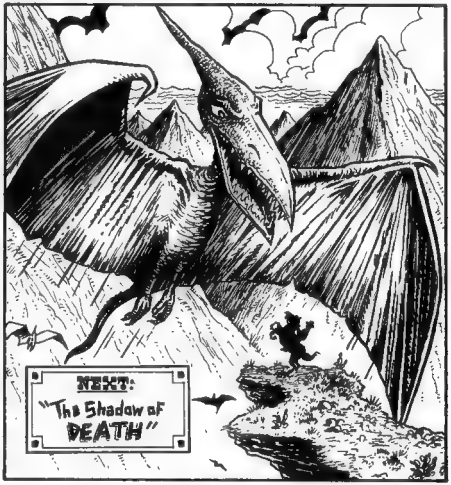




But, gradually, the dust storm clears, and ...







A 14-Chapter Serial

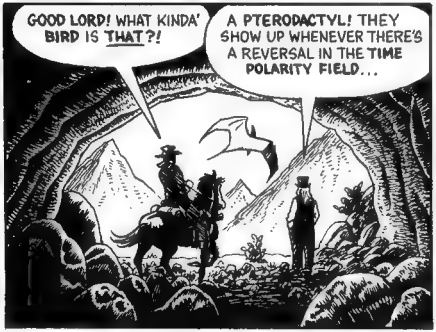
Rio Bardo

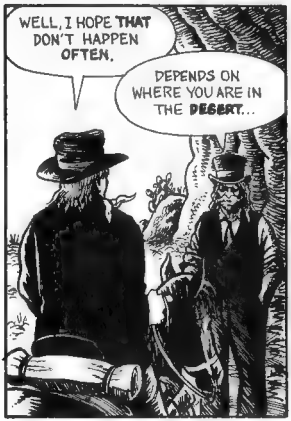
BY

Mack White

Chapter Three

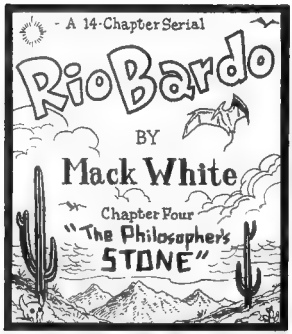
"The Shadow of DEATH"

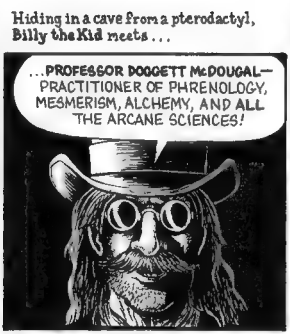




NEXT:

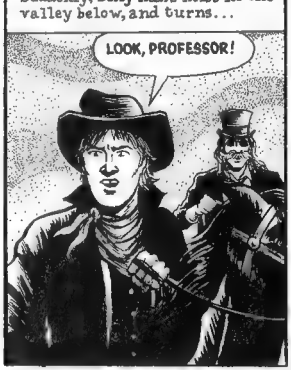
"The Philosopher's Stone"

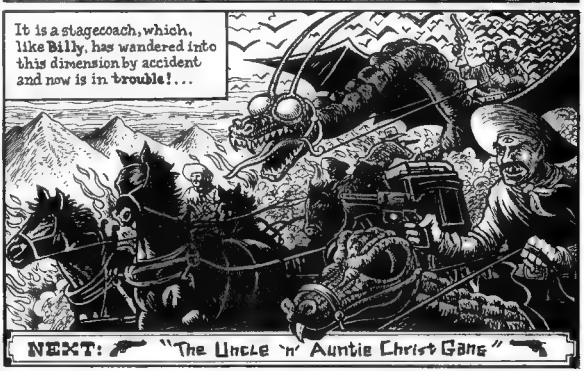

- A 14-Chapter Serial
Rio Bardo
BY
Mack White
Chapter Four
"The Philosopher's STONE"

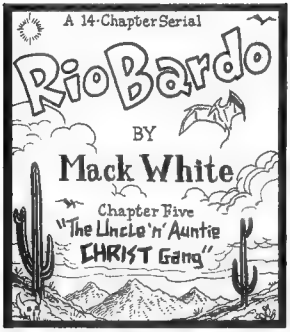

Hiding in a cave from a pterodactyl, Billy the Kid meets...
...PROFESSOR DOGGETT McDOUGAL— PRACTITIONER OF PHRENOLOGY, MESMERISM, ALCHEMY, AND ALL THE ARCANE SCIENCES!

I'M, UH—BILLY ANTRIM, PLEASED TO MEET—
DON'T DISMOUNT YET, BILLY! THE TIME POLARITY EFFECT IS OVER. NOW WE CAN TRAVEL UNMOLESTED.

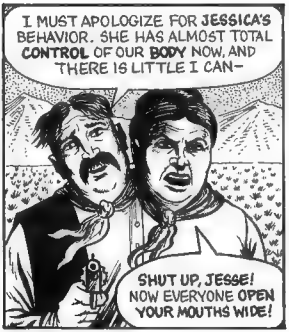
THAT SURE IS A PURTY SUNSET!
YES—NOW, AS I WAS SAYING, YOU CAME INTO THIS DIMENSION BY ACCIDENT. I CAME BY DESIGN. FOR IT IS HERE I HOPE TO FIND... THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE!

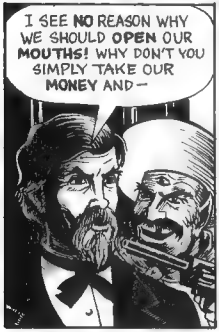

Suddenly, Billy hears noise in the valley below, and turns...
LOOK, PROFESSOR!

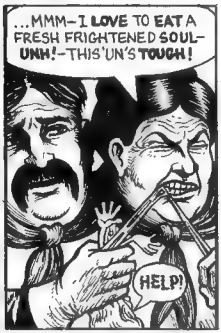

It is a stagecoach, which, like Billy, has wandered into this dimension by accident and now is in trouble!...
NEXT: "The Uncle 'n' Auntie Christ Gang"

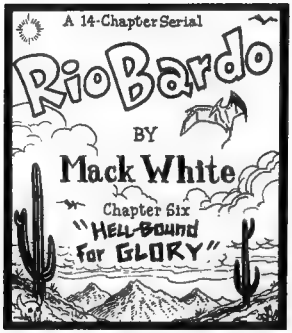


Billy the Kid and Professor McDougal watch as a stagecoach is robbed...

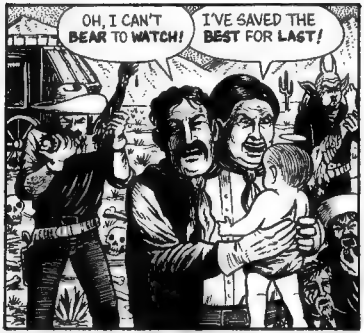






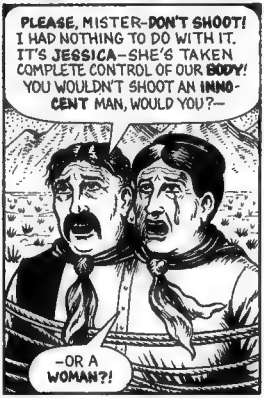


The **Uncle 'n' Auntie Christ Gang** has held up a stagecoach—but not for money. One by one, **Auntie Christ** rips out the soul of each passenger, and **eats** it. The other outlaws eat the grisly leftovers—the soulless **corpses** of the victims. It is the most thorough of all deaths—the utter annihilation of body **and** soul...

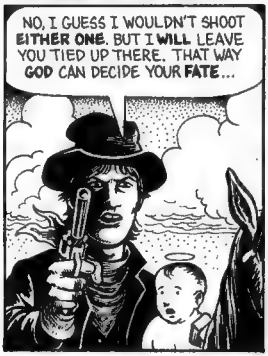


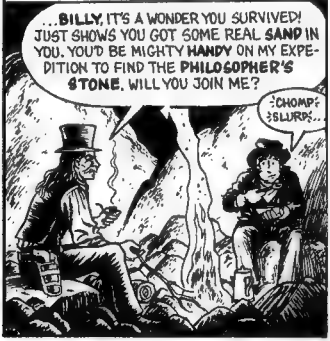
Suddenly, **Billy the Kid** appears. Unable to shoot, for fear of harming the **baby**, he throws his **lasso**...

Frightened by the sight of their leader so unceremoniously ensnared, the others **flee**...



Unsure if he has done the right thing by not shooting the two-headed outlaw, **Billy** rides away with the haloed baby. Later, he catches up with **Professor McDougal**...





A 14-Chapter Serial

Rio Bardo

BY

Mack White

Chapter Seven

"The DIVINE CHILD"

...W-WE'RE :GULP: SORRY WE RUN OFF, AUNTIE!—

—I KNEW YOU'D COME BACK! LONG AS I GOT YOUR SOULS HERE IN MY POCKET, YOU'LL DO AS I DESIRE...

...NOW UNTIE ME!—AND WHEN YOU'VE DONE THAT, YOU'RE GONNA HELP ME KILL THE BUCKTOOTHED VARMINT THAT DID THIS!!!

Unaware that his troubles with the **Uncle 'n' Auntie Christ Gang** are far from over, **Billy the Kid** continues on with **Professor McDougal's** expedition to find the fabled **Philosopher's Stone**...

...I BELIEVE THE CHILD TO BE DIVINE! THAT WOULD ACCOUNT FOR HIS HALO.

AND FOR THE WAY HE'S BEEN GROWIN'! WHY, IF HE KEEPS GROWIN' LIKE THIS, HE'LL NEED HIS OWN HORSE SOON!

Later...

...I'LL TAKE THE BOY TO THE GENERAL STORE TO GET SOME CLOTHES. YOU SEE IF YOU CAN FIND HIM A HORSE.

OKAY, PROFESSOR.

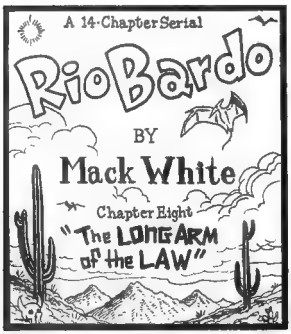
SALOON

Agreeing to meet the Professor later at the hotel, Billy rides through the deserted streets looking for the stables. Suddenly...

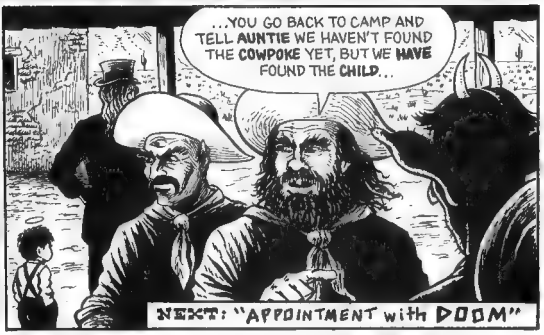
KID!—YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

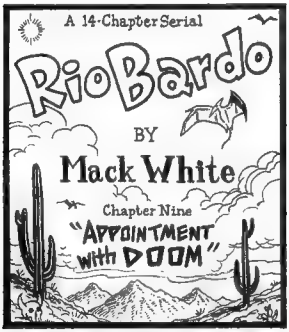
NEXT:

"The LONG ARM of the LAW"

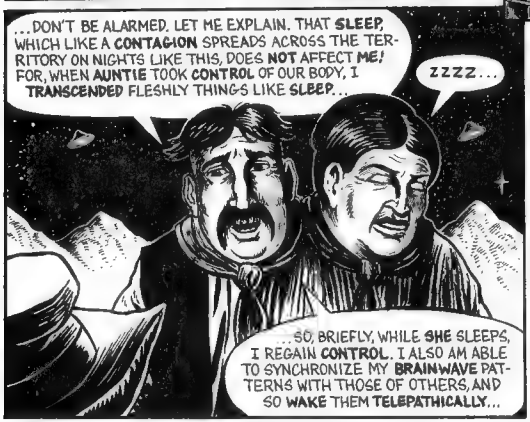


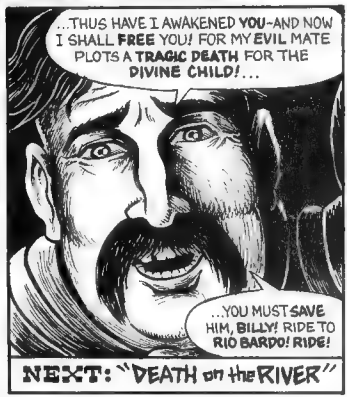
Billy the Kid has been captured!...



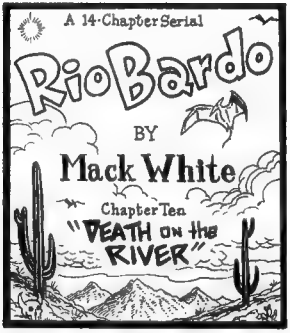


Billy the Kid has been **captured** by a most uncommon bounty hunter–**Annie Oakley**. As they ride along, they encounter a **time polarity field reversal**. Travel is treacherous during these effects, for time **elasticizes** and elements of the past or future might **bleed through** at any moment. There is little to do but **wait** it out. They spend the **endless night** watching **flying** machines from the future and **talking** of their **lives**...





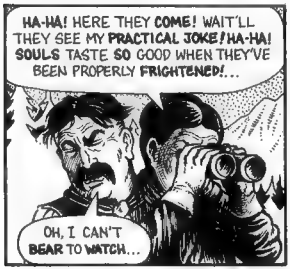
NEXT: "DEATH on the RIVER"



The time polarity field reversal is at last ending. The effect has been one of unusually **long** duration, causing **night** to expand to a thousand years and finally closing all **eyes** in a centuries-long **sleep**.

Billy the Kid is already awake. Brought to consciousness by the intervention of **Uncle Christ**, and also **freed**, Billy now hurriedly takes his leave of the bounty hunter **Annie Oakley** before she awakes. Yet he cannot resist pausing a few moments...

Billy gallops away, following **Uncle Christ's** directions to reach the **Rio Bardo**. It is a long, hard ride, lasting many days, some **centuries** in length. When he is at last minutes away...



Below, the **Professor** and the **Divine Child** are negotiating the raging river...

But as they round the bend...

It is **Auntie Christ's** "practical joke." The gang has felled a large **tree**, causing it to block their path. The swiftly moving current carries them towards this **deadly** wall...

Meanwhile, on the cliff above...

NEXT: "FRONTIER JUSTICE"

A 14-Chapter Serial

Rio Bardo

BY

Mack White

Chapter Eleven

"FRONTIER JUSTICE"

Propelled by the rapids of the raging **Rio Bardo**, the **Professor** and the **Divine Child's** canoe hits the **tree** with tremendous force...

The current pulls the **Child** deep into the river...

From the bank of the river, an **outlaw** fires...

...**killing** the **Professor** as he surfaces...

Then...

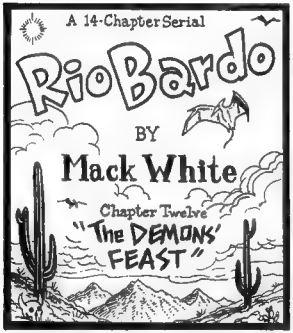
But, **seconds** after dispensing this bit of **frontier justice**...

Billy does so, but...

Meanwhile, **Annie**, who has been in hot pursuit of **Billy**, appears on a nearby hill...

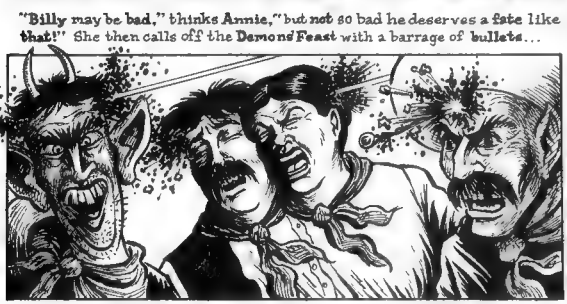
NEXT:

"The DEMONS' FEAST"


A 14-Chapter Serial
RioBardo
BY
Mack White
Chapter Twelve
"The DEMONS' FEAST"

JESSICA, LET HIM DIE IN PEACE–
HA-HA! LOOK AT HIM – HIS STOMACH BLOWN WIDE OPEN, SCARED OUT OF HIS WITS...

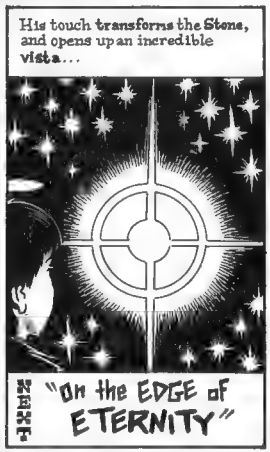
On a nearby hill...
THAT'S AUNTIE CHRIST! SHE'S GOING TO EAT HIS SOUL!...

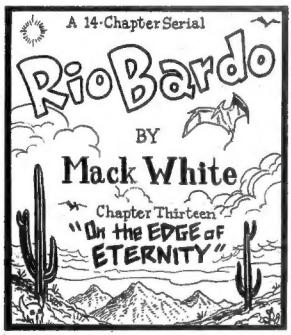

"Billy may be bad," thinks Annie," but not so bad he deserves a fate like that!" She then calls off the Demons' Feast with a barrage of bullets...

Meanwhile, the Divine Child has been carried by the current deep into a subterranean river. He surfaces...
GASP!

...and finds himself in a great cavern, before the fabled Philosopher's Stone...

The Stone vibrates with a strange celestial music. Enchanted, the Child steps forward and...

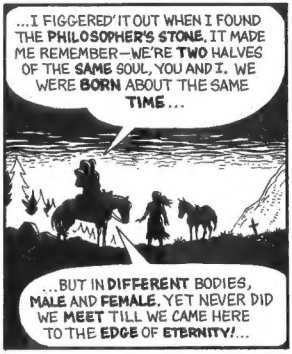

His touch transforms the Stone, and opens up an incredible vista...
NEXT: "On the EDGE of ETERNITY"


A 14-Chapter Serial
Rio Bardo
BY
Mack White
Chapter Thirteen
"On the EDGE of ETERNITY"

...I MUST BE OUT OF MY MIND NOT TO TAKE HIS HEAD BACK FOR THE REWARD, BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT—
MUCH OBLIGED TO YOU FOR THE BURIAL...

...BUT, AS YOU CAN SEE, IT WEREN'T NECESSARY!

BILLY?! BUT—
WHAT YOU BURIED WAS A PHANTOM. WE'RE ALL OF US PHANTOMS HERE. THIS IS A DREAM, ANNIE!...

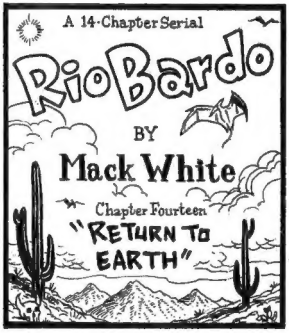

...I FIGGERED IT OUT WHEN I FOUND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE. IT MADE ME REMEMBER—WE'RE TWO HALVES OF THE SAME SOUL, YOU AND I. WE WERE BORN ABOUT THE SAME TIME...
...BUT IN DIFFERENT BODIES, MALE AND FEMALE. YET NEVER DID WE MEET TILL WE CAME HERE TO THE EDGE OF ETERNITY!...

...BILLY THE KID NEVER SHOT PAT GARRETT, REMEMBER? IT WAS THE OTHER WAY AROUND. AND YOU WERE NEVER A BOUNTY HUNTER—

YOU'RE RIGHT—THAT WAS ONLY IN DIME NOVELS. I WAS REALLY A PERFORMER IN BILL CODY'S CIRCUS!—YES, I REMEMBER NOW—AND I REMEMBER GROWING OLD AND DYING...

"...AND WHEN I DIED, I SAW A LIGHT. IT WAS BEAUTIFUL, YET TERRIFYING TOO IN ITS INTENSITY. SO I PULLED AWAY FROM IT, AND BEGAN TO DREAM..."

...AND EVERYONE IN THIS DREAM IS JUST AN ASPECT OF MYSELF!
LOOK— THE DREAMSCAPE IS CHANGING!
NEXT: "RETURN TO EARTH"



The Tibetan Buddhists call it the "bardo"—the "in-between" state. Others call it "purgatory," still others the "dream time." It is a time outside of time, a place beyond all places. It is the great ocean of One Mind, from which flow all minds, and to which they return. It is the Source of all confusion, and of all understanding—where Creation first radiates from the Light...

...I REALIZE NOW WHAT TERRIFIED ME SO WHEN I SAW THE LIGHT. IT WAS THE REALIZATION THAT I AM ALL, AND ALL IS ALL THERE IS. SUCH LONELINESS I COULD NOT BEAR. FOR IT IS THE LONELINESS OF GOD BEFORE CREATION. I PULLED AWAY FROM THE LIGHT THAT I MIGHT LOOK UPON IT AND LOVE IT—AND BE LOVED IN RETURN. AND YET THERE WAS A PRICE FOR LOVE—REBIRTH IN THE VALE OF TEARS—

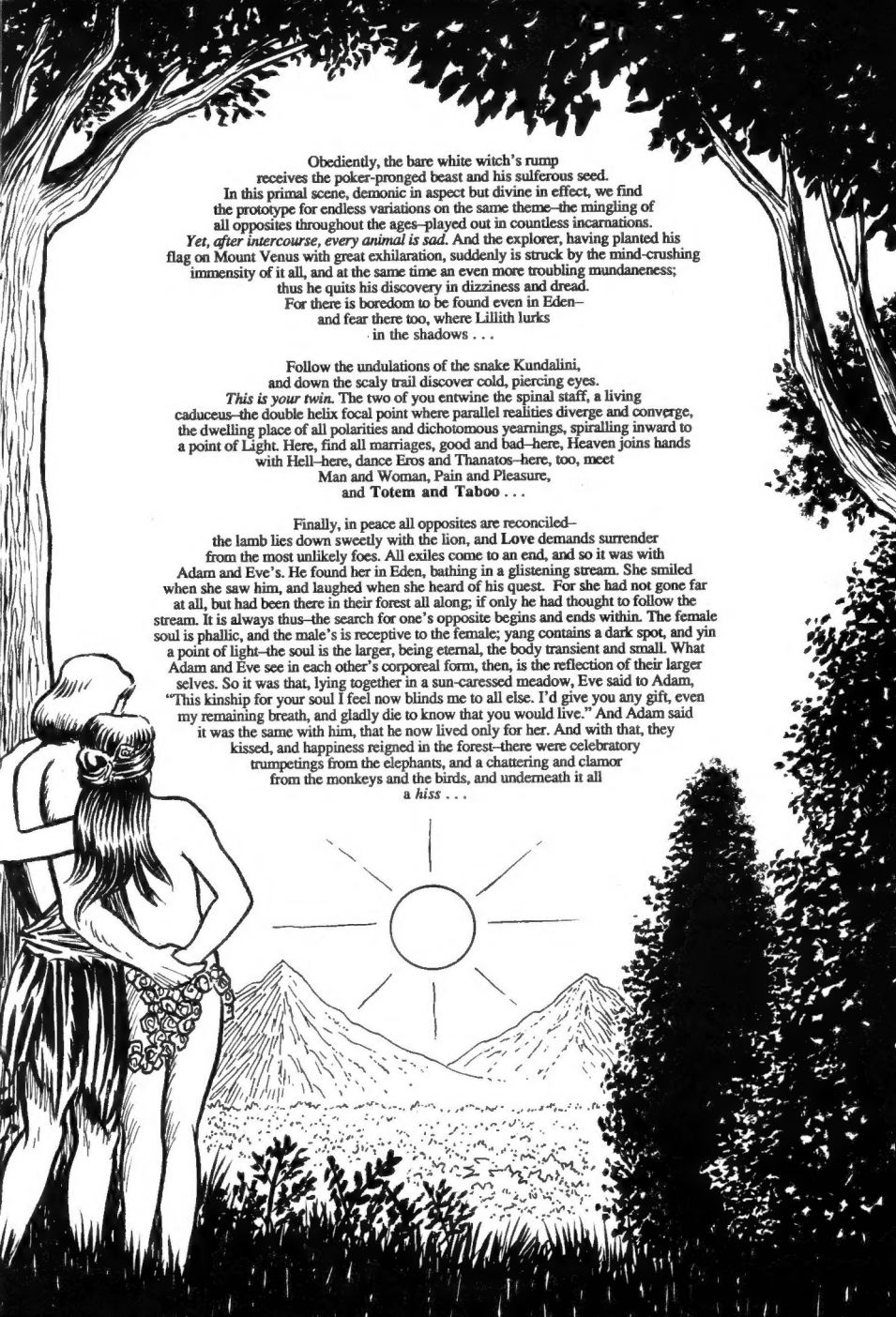
OH, THAT AIN'T SUCH A BAD PRICE TO PAY—A LITTLE DEATH FOR A LOT OF LIFE!...

SEE YOU LATER, BILLY...

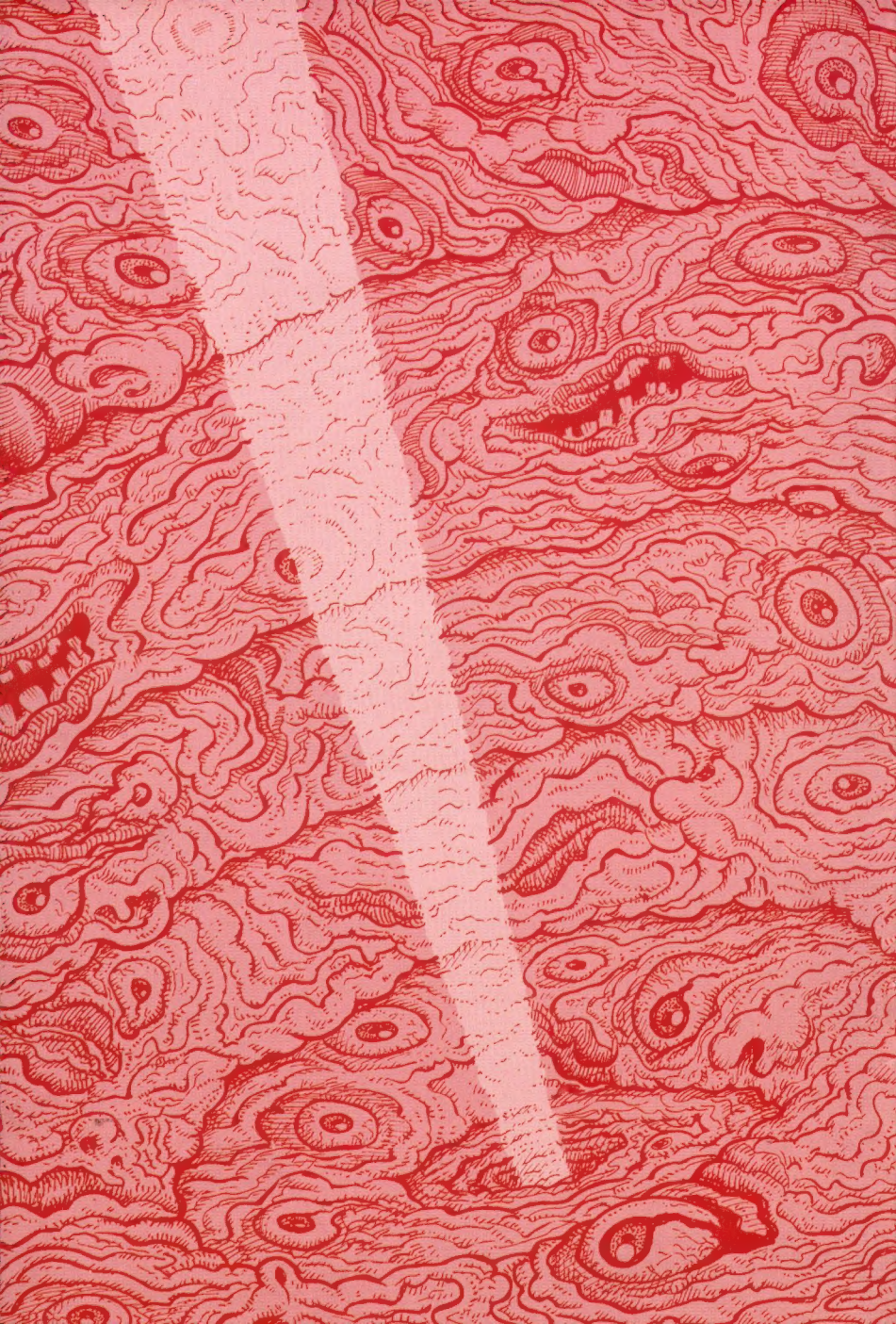
ADIOS!...

And then came the forgetting...

~ The End ~



Obediently, the bare white witch's rump
receives the poker-pronged beast and his sulferous seed.
In this primal scene, demonic in aspect but divine in effect, we find
the prototype for endless variations on the same theme–the mingling of
all opposites throughout the ages–played out in countless incarnations.
Yet, after intercourse, every animal is sad. And the explorer, having planted his
flag on Mount Venus with great exhilaration, suddenly is struck by the mind-crushing
immensity of it all, and at the same time an even more troubling mundaneness;
thus he quits his discovery in dizziness and dread.
For there is boredom to be found even in Eden–
and fear there too, where Lillith lurks
in the shadows . . .

Follow the undulations of the snake Kundalini,
and down the scaly trail discover cold, piercing eyes.
This is your twin. The two of you entwine the spinal staff, a living
caduceus–the double helix focal point where parallel realities diverge and converge,
the dwelling place of all polarities and dichotomous yearnings, spiralling inward to
a point of Light. Here, find all marriages, good and bad–here, Heaven joins hands
with Hell–here, dance Eros and Thanatos–here, too, meet
Man and Woman, Pain and Pleasure,
and **Totem and Taboo . . .**

Finally, in peace all opposites are reconciled–
the lamb lies down sweetly with the lion, and **Love** demands surrender
from the most unlikely foes. All exiles come to an end, and so it was with
Adam and Eve's. He found her in Eden, bathing in a glistening stream. She smiled
when she saw him, and laughed when she heard of his quest. For she had not gone far
at all, but had been there in their forest all along; if only he had thought to follow the
stream. It is always thus–the search for one's opposite begins and ends within. The female
soul is phallic, and the male's is receptive to the female; yang contains a dark spot, and yin
a point of light–the soul is the larger, being eternal, the body transient and small. What
Adam and Eve see in each other's corporeal form, then, is the reflection of their larger
selves. So it was that, lying together in a sun-caressed meadow, Eve said to Adam,
"This kinship for your soul I feel now blinds me to all else. I'd give you any gift, even
my remaining breath, and gladly die to know that you would live." And Adam said
it was the same with him, that he now lived only for her. And with that, they
kissed, and happiness reigned in the forest–there were celebratory
trumpetings from the elephants, and a chattering and clamor
from the monkeys and the birds, and underneath it all
a *hiss* . . .